

### Fast 30: The Holy Prophet Muhammad as the Last and Final Prophet

“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things.” — 33:40

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ۝

“Say: O mankind, surely I am the Messenger of Allah to you all, of Him Whose is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. ...” — 7:158

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

“...This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favour to you and chosen for you Islam as a religion. ...” — 5:3

إِلْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

- By “Seal of the Prophets” (*Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn*) is meant that the Holy Prophet Muhammad sealed and closed the institution of prophethood, and was thus the last and final prophet. The three verses quoted above represent different sides of the same picture. If we take each of them in turn, it implies what is stated in the other two. They form a strong, steel triangle whose three sides all support one another.
  1. *If the Holy Prophet is the last Prophet*, then he should have come for all mankind because no prophet before him had come for all mankind, and he should have come with the perfect religion since no prophet would come after him.
  2. *If the Holy Prophet came for all mankind*, the purpose is to unite humanity, and therefore he would be the last prophet because another prophet after him would divide humanity again after its unity. He would also bring the perfect religion since no prophet would come after him.
  3. *If the Holy Prophet brought a perfect religion*, and God’s favour was completed upon mankind, then it means no prophet can arise after him, and that he would also have arisen for all mankind.
- Many years ago I presented the above points to a Muslim from Egypt. He said to me: “These are very good points, but there is a sect in your country (Pakistan), to whom you should be telling this, and they are called Ahmadiyya.” So I astonished him by saying: “I am a member of the Ahmadiyya myself, and that is from where I have learnt this!”
- Regarding verse 33:40, quoted above, it says that the Holy Prophet Muhammad has no male heir, he is not the *physical father* of any man; but on the other hand, he is the

Messenger of Allah. This means that he is the *spiritual father* of many, of all those who follow his message. Moreover, by sealing the institution of prophethood, he will always remain the spiritual father because no spiritual father will come after him.

- Being *merely last* is no virtue. If someone was the last king in a dynasty (for example, the last emperor of the Mughal empire in India), it means that the rule of that dynasty finished after him. No one continued to obey the laws of that king or that dynasty.

On the other hand, the Holy Prophet Muhammad is the Last Prophet because his spiritual rule will continue forever. You can say that the “dynasty” of prophethood produced a Prophet whose rule remains in force forever. So no prophet is needed after him.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad himself stated in clear words that the meaning of his being *Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn* is that no prophet would come after him. He said:

“My example and the example of the prophets before me is the example of a man who has a house and he made it very good and very beautiful, except for the place of a brick in a corner. People began to go round it and to wonder at it and to say: Why has not this stone been placed? So I am that brick, and I am the seal of the Prophets (*Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn*).” — Bukhari, hadith 3535

“The Israelites used to be led by prophets. Whenever a prophet died, another prophet came after him. *There will be no prophet after me*, but there will be *khalifas* (successors), and they will be numerous.” — Bukhari, hadith 3455

The Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, wrote as follows about the *Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn* verse of the Quran (33:40) and about the words of hadith “*There will be no prophet after me*”:

“The Holy Prophet Muhammad had repeatedly said that no prophet would come after him, and the hadith ‘*There will be no prophet after me*’ was so well-known that no one had any doubt about its authenticity. And the Holy Quran, every word of which is binding, in its verse ‘but he is the Messenger of Allah and the *Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn*’ (33:40), confirmed that prophethood has in fact ended with our Holy Prophet. Then how could it be possible that any prophet should come after the Holy Prophet Muhammad, according to the real meaning of prophethood? This would have destroyed the entire fabric of Islam.” (*Kitab-ul-Bariyya*, p. 184, footnote)

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*Lastly, Eid Mubarak to all readers of these Quran Studies,  
Wishing all of you a very happy and blessed Eid of May 2021!*